

NIGHT OF HOPE
GALA

years
50

THE CRIME VICTIMS' CENTER
OF CHESTER COUNTY

1973

2023

Presented By
Goldberg, Goldberg
& Maloney

11.09.23



Welcome to our 50th Anniversary Celebration!

The night has finally arrived and we are so glad you could join us! What began by CVC founders, Connie Noblett and Peggy Gusz as a grass roots effort by a handful of volunteers has grown into the agency as we know it today, over 35 staff reaching over 25,000 residents in Chester County just this past fiscal year alone. We could not have reached this milestone without the support and guidance of so many and for that we are grateful.

A special thank you to Larry Goldberg and Goldberg, Goldberg & Maloney for their sponsorship of tonight's event as well as for their support year after year. Working as a "gopher" for Larry's firm over 25 years ago in what is now CVC's building, I never could have imagined that some day I would have the honor of leading this amazing organization.

Hoping tonight will give you a chance to connect with some old friends and make some new ones!

Let's celebrate!

Christine Zaccarelli, Esquire

CEO

The Crime Victims' Center of Chester County

NIGHT OF HOPE PROGRAM

SILENT AUCTION IS OPEN!

Follow the Bidpal link sent to your phone to access
the auction or come use one of our tablets!

COCKTAILS/APPETIZERS

WELCOME

Christine Zaccarelli, Esq.
Chief Executive Officer

Basil Joy, Esq.
Presenting Sponsor
Goldberg, Goldberg and Malone

SEATED DINNER

50TH ANNIVERSARY VIDEO

Maria Janoski, Esq.
President, CVC Board of Directors

50TH ANNIVERSARY ANNUAL CAMPAIGN

DESSERT AND COFFEE

SILENT AUCTION CLOSURES
9:15 PM

CLOSING REMARKS



IN MEMORY
BROOKE HEDDERICK

"THE WORLD IS A LITTLE WORSE OFF TODAY." BROOKE HEDDERICK, LONG TIME CVC VICE PRESIDENT OF OPERATIONS AND ADVOCATE PASSED AWAY AUGUST 14, 2023. WHEN HER HUSBAND SHARED HER PASSING WITH US HE SAID THAT THE WORLD WAS A LITTLE WORSE OFF TODAY AND WE COULDN'T AGREE MORE. BROOKE WAS THE HEART OF CVC AND MADE A DIFFERENCE IN SO MANY LIVES IN CHESTER COUNTY AND BEYOND, SHE WAS LOVED AND WE MISS HER EVERYDAY.

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**CONGRATS ON 50 YEARS OF SUPPORT
TO CRIME VICTIMS AND THEIR FAMILIES**

If you're hurt,
We can help.

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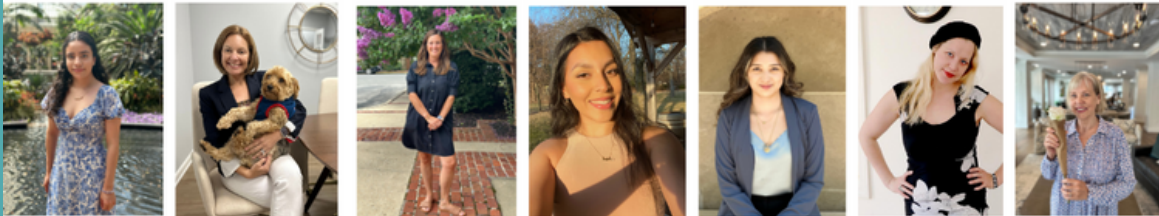


IN MEMORY
STEVE KELLY

STEVE KELLY, LONG TIME SUPPORTER AND FRIEND OF CVC PASSED ON APRIL 26, 2023. STEVE WAS AN ATTORNEY IN THE CHESTER COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE FOR OVER 27 YEARS. DURING THAT TIME, HE TRIED MORE CASES TO A JURY IN THE CHESTER COUNTY COURTHOUSE THAN ANY OTHER ATTORNEY IN THE COUNTY. HE WAS A TIRELESS ADVOCATE FOR VICTIMS AND THEIR FAMILIES. STEVE WILL TRULY BE MISSED AND IN OUR HEARTS FOREVER.



The Team at Sheridan Lawyers



Always remember, you are not alone!



INJURED? VICTIMIZED? WRONGED?



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A DAY IN THE LIFE OF AN ADVOCATE

by Hannah Oliveras

The morning went fairly smoothly – the preliminary hearing that I was supposed to attend got canceled on the trip over. After calling the client to let him know, I headed into the office to help out with hotline coverage. We race to answer the phones here at CVC – most of the time, there’s barely a ring before an advocate has picked up. By the middle of the day the hotline had kept us on our toes. Several advocates had been called out to different places across the county: one to a sudden police interview 35 minutes to the west, another two to a surprise child-friendly Forensic Interview a few steps away at the Justice Center. I was left with a supervisor and two other advocates when I got the call.

“Thank you for calling the Crime Victims’ Center, this is—” the client interrupts me, recognizing my voice just as easily as I recognize hers. I break into a smile before comprehending what she’s telling me. I haven’t heard from this client in months but it all comes back to me – her victimization, the police interview I accompanied her to that holiday I was on call, the small talk we made while the detective pulled up a photo of her offender. Her voice is small as she tells me that she’s grateful I reached out again. A few days prior, she’d experienced another victimization.

The next hour is a rush of providing crisis counseling and giving her her options: she’s still within the window to collect DNA if she would like a Forensic Rape Exam. I call a couple hospitals in advance to see the wait times and pass that to the client, along with my offer to accompany her. My supervisor coordinates coverage for me to leave, and I stuff down my lunch before heading out.

The hours after that are a bit slower – we arrive at the hospital and they lead her back to a room. We don’t talk much about the victimization, only as much as she wants. Mostly, we just catch up. I ask her about her job, her kids, her pets. We talk about how our husbands are doing, how expensive our state is, how this hospital seems pretty nice. The nurse asks her the background questions to start the exam and leaves the room again. We make more small talk, she shares some of her fears and hesitations and the nurse enters again, this time with the doctor and the physician’s assistant in tow.

I listen as they explain to her that they can’t do the rape kit because they wouldn’t be able to collect any evidence: it’s too far out from the victimization. My heart starts racing, knowing how much strength it took for the client to come out here and do this. I speak up.

The guidelines are up to 120 hours," I say. We are well within that limit, but they continue to say that it's been too long for the kit to work. They all leave and the room feels heavy. There's no more small talk; it's happening again. With the last victimization, before an advocate got involved, a different hospital told this client that a Forensic Rape Exam would be worthless because she waited a few days – only for detectives to later wish they'd had the kit. The number for my supervisor is up on my phone when the nurse walks back in, carrying a sheet of paper and handing it to me.

You're right, it's up to 120 hours. We can do the exam."

I stay the next few hours with her, far past the hours I was expecting to work that day. We talk over what happened and relief floods the room – this case may not end up like the last one. Even if no evidence is found, having the kit done makes her feel better – more in-control. We make plans to catch up again in the next few days and we part ways, each of us heading to our own homes.

Most Forensic Rape Exams are not like this – most are done by certified Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners who are more familiar with the procedures and the guidelines. But, had an advocate not been there with this client, she likely would have just left the hospital when they told her the wrong timelines for evidence collection.

It's hard to describe the typical day of an advocate because everyday is vastly different and always surprising. The preliminary hearing that was scheduled got continued to another date on the way there. All of a sudden an old client needed accompaniment for a new case. Our days are never the same and rarely go according to plan.

The only consistent thing is that everyday we are making a difference.

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Special Thanks to our Gala Committee members for all their efforts in helping plan tonight: Amy Coral, Carol Rothera, Laurie Ryan, Rhyan Strasters, Lisa Yackel, & Nina Yentzer

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All the local businesses throughout Chester County who graciously donated items to our Silent Auction!

Most importantly thank you to our staff and volunteers who make CVC what it is, a "Beacon of Hope" for so many in so many ways!